

charge instantly recognized little Jim as he exultantly gasped : " Here I am Father. Papa went to the tavern and locked me in the house, but I got through the window and here I am. I kept my fast hoping our dear Lord would give me the grace I've been begging for the last three months—the grace to make my First Communion with the others. How I did not know but I trusted Him and here I am.

And the child with the ragged blouse, old shoes and beaming countenance took his place in the chancel beside Charlie. If he noticed the difference between himself and the others he was too happy to mind much. He joined his hands, fixed his gaze on the altar and tabernacle and forgot all else ; it was his only prayer—book in which he seemed to read what brought a smile to his lips and light up his countenance with an indescribable blending of joyous serenity, angelic purity, unearthly happiness.

When the celebrant laid the Sacred Host on his trembling lips he looked more like an angel than an ordinary boy and notwithstanding his old shoes and shabby clothes no one was more beautiful or admired in the eyes of God, the church, and the onlookers, than little Jim.

When the never to be forgotten ceremony was over he went home with Charlie, donned his pretty new suit and spent the happiest day imaginable. But towards night when there was question of going home he began to be a little afraid of facing his father so the kind priest decided to accompany him.

When his father saw him dressed so nicely and looking so happy his anger softened a little, but only a little as his greeting ; " Boy, how dare you disobey me ? followed by his insulting taunt—" I suppose its only the trick I knew those crafty priests were up too," clearly showed.

" Yes," gently answered the priest—ignoring the insult. " We are playing the trick of giving you a well-brought up good boy. I must admit he disobeyed you to-day for the first time still were you honest enough you would say he had done well."

" No, neither now or ever will I admit such a thing." Well ! perhaps it will surprise you still more when I tell

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